

CLAIMS

(Amended on August 22, 2001)

1. A method for handling a call made by subscriber A using a
5 subscriber terminal (MSA, A), which comprises a telecommunications part (5)
and an AV part (7) for displaying audio and/or visual information, to a
subscriber terminal (MSB, B) of subscriber B when subscriber B is unable to
answer, in which method the terminal (MSA, A) of subscriber A, or at least its
10 AV part (7), is operationally connected to an audiovisual source (3, 3') for the
time subscriber A waits for subscriber B to answer or to become available,
after which the call is connected between subscribers A and B,
characterized in that the method comprises the steps of

providing said subscriber terminal of the subscriber A with at least
one AV source (3');

15 offering a plural number of alternative AV sources (3, 3') to
subscriber A;

receiving information about the AV source (3, 3') chosen by
subscriber A; and

20 connecting the terminal (MSA, A) used by subscriber A, or at least
its AV part (7), to the AV source (3, 3') chosen by subscriber A.

2. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that
information about the AV source (3, 3') chosen by subscriber A is stored into a
memory means prior to the call, and subscriber A's terminal (MSA, A), or at
least its AV part (7), is connected to the AV source (3, 3') indicated by the
25 subscriber-specific information stored in the memory means.

3. A method according to any one claims 1 to 2,
characterized in that at least the receiving step is carried out after it
has been found out that subscriber B is unable to answer.

4. A telephone system comprising at least a terminal (MSA, A) used
30 by subscriber A, a terminal (MSB, B) used by subscriber B, a switching centre
(MSCA, MSCB, 1, MSC) for setting up a call between subscribers A and B,
and connecting means (SCF, SRF, 2, SCN) for connecting the subscriber A's
terminal (MSA, A) to an AV source (3) when subscriber B is unable to answer,
characterized in that the system comprises a plural number of
35 alternative audiovisual sources (3) of which at least one is arranged in said
terminal used by subscriber A, and that the connecting means (SCF, SRF, 2,

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SCN) are arranged to connect the terminal (MSA, A) of subscriber A to the AV source (3) chosen by subscriber A when subscriber B is unable to answer.

5. A telephone system according to claim 4, **characterized** in that it comprises a mobile communications system.

6. A telephone system according to claim 4 or 5, **characterized** in that the telephone system comprises at least one subscriber register (HLR, VLR1, VLR2, VLR) having a data transmission connection to a mobile services switching centre (MSCA, MSCB), subscriber information of subscriber terminals (MSA, MSB) within the mobile communications system being maintained in the subscriber register, and connecting means comprising a specialised resource function (SRF) and a service control function (SCF, SCN) which read the subscriber information from the subscriber register (HLR, VLR1, VLR2, VLR) and connect subscriber A's terminal (MSA) to the AV source (3) chosen by subscriber A on the basis of the information read.

7. A telephone system according to claim 4 or 5, **characterized** in that the connecting means, which comprise a specialised resource function (SRF) and a service control function (SCF), inform subscriber A about the available AV sources (3), receive the choice made by subscriber A and connect subscriber A's terminal (MSA) to the AV source (3) corresponding to the choice.

8. A telephone system according to claim 4, **characterized** in that it comprises a public switched telephone network.

9. A telephone system according to any one of claims 4 to 7, **characterized** in that it comprises a private branch exchange (4) to which a plural number of audiovisual sources (3) and means (2) are connected to transmit information to subscriber A about the available AV sources (3), to receive the choice made by subscriber A and to connect subscriber terminal A (A, MSA) to the AV source (3).

10. A telephone apparatus comprising a telecommunications part (5), an AV part (7) and a user interface (8), **characterized** in that the telephone apparatus also comprises an audiovisual source (3') and connecting means (2') for connecting the AV part (7) to the AV source (3') in response to control signals relayed from other parts of the telephone system to indicate that subscriber B is unable to answer.

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11. A telephone apparatus according to claim 10,
characterized in that the AV source (3') also comprises a memory (M)
into which audio data has been stored, and an audio generator (G) for
generating audio signals from the audio data and for feeding the signals into
5 the AV part (7).

12. A telephone apparatus according to claim 10,
characterized in that the AV source (3') is a radio.

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